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OCT 27 2003

October 27, 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with FCC Rule 54.703(c)(2), the accompanying original letter (and four copies) to FCC Chairman Michael Powell submitting the name of Mr. Kevin Hess as the nominee to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors for the **director position representing the "largest incumbent local exchange carriers"** is being filed with you. Two copies of this transmittal letter and the attached letter to Chairman Powell are also being provided to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, in accordance with *Public Notice* DA 01-2078, rel. 09/04/01. I request that you process this filing so that Chairman Powell may give due consideration to this nomination.

Please contact me at (202) 326-7274 should you have questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "DAVE", is positioned above the typed name of David Cohen.

David Cohen
VP Policy and Acting General Counsel

Attachments

cc Honorable Michael Powell
Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division (2)

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Walter B. McCormick, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 844
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to you on behalf of the USTA Board of Directors to re-nominate Kevin Hess to a seat on the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

As you know, Mr. Hess currently fills the seat designated for incumbent local exchange carriers (other than the Bell Operating Companies) with annual operating revenues in excess of \$40 million. The USTA Board of Directors believes that Mr. Hess' reappointment to this seat is in the best interests of continuing the coordination between USAC and the largest of the local exchange providers.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Hess' professional and biographical information. Mr. Hess has been a leader within his company, managing its telecommunications policy and regulatory filings. In addition, he is an accomplished veteran of our industry's various cooperative committees, such as the USTA Telecom Policy Committee and Regulatory Tactics Committee. His expertise and experience combined with the excellent work he has done in his first two terms with USAC make him an ideal candidate to continue as a member of the USAC Board.

I am confident that when you review Mr. Hess' resume, you will agree that his unique abilities and experience, along with his unflagging dedication to improving education, make him a logical choice for reappointment to the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Walter B. McCormick, Jr.

BIOGRAPHY OF KEVIN G. HESS

Kevin Hess, TDS TELECOM's Vice President of Federal Affairs, has served the telecommunications industry for the past 27 years. In his current role, Mr. Hess is responsible for the development of TDS TELECOM policy on regulatory and legislative issues, and promotion of these policies at the national level. Accordingly, he works closely with industry organizations, meets with regulatory bodies and members of Congress, and directs the preparation of comments on Federal Communications Commission (FCC) matters.

In addition to his current position as the mid-size local exchange carrier (LEC) representative on the Universal Service Administrative Company(USAC) Board, Kevin is also a member of USTA's Telecom Policy Committee, and represents TDS TELECOM with the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Association. He has provided expert testimony before many state public service commissions, and before the U S. Congress.

Prior to joining TDS TELECOM in 1984, Kevin spent eight years at Kiesling Associates, a public accounting and consulting firm, providing independent LECs with audit, accounting, tax, and regulatory expertise. He is a certified public accountant, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and has an MBA from the University of Tennessee.